

Applicants: Lucio Giambattista et al.

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1.-23. (Canceled)

Claim 24. (Previously presented) A safety injection needle assembly comprising: an injection needle having an injection part with a first end sharpened for piercing skin and a cartridge part having a second end for inserting into a medication holding cartridge of an injection device; a hub in which the injection needle is mounted; a slideable safety shield for covering the injection part of the needle, the shield being biased to slide toward and to cover the first end when no external force is applied to the shield; a lock for irreversibly locking the safety shield in its normally biased position covering the injection part, the lock being activated by sliding the shield from its normally biased position to a position exposing the injection part during an injection; and a visual indicator indicating that the safety shield is locked in the normally biased position.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) The safety injection needle assembly according to claim 24, wherein the lock is provided with at least one indicating area and the safety shield is provided with at least one transparent area through which the indicating area(s) is visible when the safety shield has been irreversibly locked in the normally biased

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position, thereby providing the user with a visual indication when the injection needle is in a potentially safe position.

Claim 26. (Previously presented) The safety injection needle assembly according to claim 24, wherein the lock is provided with at least one indicating area and the safety shield is provided with at least one opening through which the indicating area(s) is visible when the safety shield has been irreversibly locked in the normally biased position, thereby providing the user with a visual indication when the injection needle is in a potentially safe position.

Claims 27.-30. (Canceled)

Claim 31. (Previously presented) A safety injection needle assembly comprising: an elongated cannula having a distal end for injecting a patient; a hub in which the cannula is mounted; a movable safety shield that moves relative to the cannula between a first position exposing the distal end and a second position covering the distal end, the safety shield being biased toward the second position; a locking means for irreversibly locking the safety shield in the second position after the shield is initially moved from the second position to the first position and then returned to the second position; and a visual indicator that shows when the shield is irreversibly locked in the second position, thereby preventing re-use of the needle assembly to administer a second injection after it has been already used to administer a first injection.

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Claim 32. (Previously presented) A safety injection needle assembly of claim 31, wherein the visual indicator shows a colored surface after the shield is irreversibly locked.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) A safety injection needle assembly of claim 31, wherein the visual indicator shows a textured surface after the shield is irreversibly locked.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) A safety injection needle assembly of claim 31, wherein the visual indicator has color.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) A safety injection needle assembly of claim 31, wherein the visual indicator has texture.

Claim 36. (Previously presented) A disposable double pointed injection needle comprising an elongated cannula having two sharp ends and an outside diameter, said needle cannula being fastened in a needle hub having a distal end and a proximal end, said proximal end being provided with a fastening mechanism for mounting said needle hub onto a syringe having a cartridge, said needle cannula having an injection part and a cartridge part, the cartridge part for inserting into a cartridge that is covered by said needle hub, the injection part for entering into a human body during injection, the injection part having an overall length short enough to secure subcutaneous injection and the cartridge part having an overall length long enough to extend into the interior of the

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cartridge when said injection needle is fastened onto said syringe, wherein: said injection needle further is provided with a movable safety shield movably mounted relative to said needle hub and which movable safety shield surrounds at least most of the injection part of said needle cannula when said needle cannula is in an unused state, and said safety shield can be longitudinally moved relatively to said needle cannula, such that said safety shield is first moved in the proximal direction when the injection part of the cannula is penetrated into the subcutis layer of a human body, thereby exposing the major part of the injection part to the human body, and automatically moved in the distal direction by a resilient element located between said needle hub and said safety shield when the injection part of said cannula is removed from the subcutis layer of the human body, and said safety shield is irreversibly locked in a locked safe position where the movable safety shield covers the skin piercing end of the injection part of said needle cannula when the injection part of said cannula is fully removed from the subcutis layer of a human body, and said double pointed disposable injection needle further is provided with means providing the user with a visual indication when said disposable double pointed injection needle is in the safe position.

Claim 37. (Previously presented) The disposable double pointed injection needle according to claim 36, wherein said needle hub is provided with at least one indicating area and said safety shield is provided with at least one transparent area through which transparent area(s) the indicating area(s) is visible when the safety shield has been moved to the irreversibly locked position, thereby providing the user with a visual indication when said disposable double point injection needle is in a potentially safe position.

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Claim 38. (Previously presented) The disposable double pointed injection needle according to claim 36, wherein said needle hub is provided with at least one indicating area and said safety shield is provided with at least opening through which opening(s) the indicating area(s) is visible when the safety shield has been moved to the irreversibly locked position, thereby providing the user with a visual indication when said disposable double point injection needle is in a potentially safe position.

Claim 39. (Previously presented) The disposable double pointed injection needle according to claim 37, wherein said needle hub further comprises a lock for irreversibly locking the safety shield in the safe position, and the at least one indicating area is provided on said lock.

Claim 40. (Previously presented) The disposable double pointed injection needle according to claim 38, wherein said needle hub further comprises a lock for irreversibly locking the safety shield in the safe position, and the at least one indicating area is provided on said lock.

Claims 41.-44. (Canceled)

Claim 45. (Previously presented) A safety shield assembly comprising: an injection needle having an injection end sharpened for piercing skin and a vial end for inserting into a medication holding vial of an injector; a hub in which the injection needle is mounted; a safety shield normally biased to extend toward and enclose the injection end

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when an external force is not applied to, or is removed from, the safety shield; and a lock for irreversibly locking the safety shield in a normally biased position enclosing the injection end, the lock being activated by moving the shield from a normally biased position to a position exposing the injection end during an injection, wherein the lock and safety shield are constructed and arranged to provide a visual indication that the safety shield is locked in the normally biased position.

Claim 46. (Previously presented) The safety shield assembly according to claim 45, wherein the lock is provided with at least one indicating area and the safety shield is provided with at least one opening through which the indicating area(s) is visible when the safety shield has been irreversibly locked in the normally biased position, thereby providing the user with a visual indication when the injection needle is in a potentially safe position.

Claim 47. (Previously presented) The safety shield assembly according to claim 45, wherein the lock is provided with at least one finger end and the safety shield is provided with at least one opening through which the finger end(s) is visible when the safety shield has been irreversibly locked in the normally biased position, thereby providing the user with a visual indication when the injection needle is in a potentially safe position.

Claims 48.-49. (Canceled)

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Claim 50. (Previously presented) A safety injection needle assembly comprising: an elongated cannula having an injection end for injecting a patient; a hub in which the cannula is mounted; a safety shield that moves relative to the cannula between a compressed position exposing the injection end and an extended position enclosing the injection end, the safety shield being normally biased toward the extended position; and a lock for irreversibly locking the safety shield in the extended position, after the shield is initially moved from the extended position to the compressed position, and then returned to the extended position, wherein the lock and safety shield are constructed and arranged to provide a visual indication when the shield is irreversibly locked in the extended position, thereby preventing re-use of the needle assembly to administer a second injection after it has been already used to administer a first injection.

Claim 51. (Previously presented) A safety injection needle assembly of claim 50, wherein the visual indication comprises a color.

Claim 52. (Previously presented) A safety injection needle assembly of claim 50, wherein the visual indication comprises a textured surface.

Claim 53. (Previously presented) A disposable double pointed injection needle comprising: an elongated cannula having two sharp ends and an outside diameter; the needle cannula being fastened in a needle hub having a closed end and an open end, the open end being provided with a thread for mounting the needle hub onto an injector having a vial, the two sharp ends of the needle cannula comprising an injection end and a

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vial end, the vial end for inserting into the vial that is covered by the needle hub, the injection end for entering a human body during injection, the injection end having an overall length short enough to secure subcutaneous injection and the vial end having an overall length long enough to extend into the interior of the vial when the injection needle is fastened onto the injector, wherein: the injection needle is further provided with a moveable safety shield movably mounted relative to the needle hub and which movable safety shield surrounds at least most of the injection end of the needle cannula when the needle cannula is in an unused state, and the safety shield can be longitudinally moved relatively to the needle cannula, such that the safety shield is first moved into a compressed position when the injection end of the cannula enters the human body, thereby exposing a major part of the injection end to the human body, and is then automatically moved into an extended position by a resilient element located between the needle hub and the safety shield when the injection end of the cannula is removed from the human body, and the safety shield is irreversibly locked in a locked safe position where the movable safety shield encloses the injection end of the needle cannula when the injection end of the cannula is fully removed from the human body, and the double pointed disposable injection needle is configured to provide the user with a visual indication when the disposable double pointed injection needle is in the safe position.

Claim 54. (Previously presented) The disposable double pointed injection needle according to claim 53, wherein the needle hub is provided with at least one indicating area and the safety shield is provided with at least one opening through which opening(s) the indicating area(s) is visible when the safety shield has been moved to the irreversibly

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locked position, thereby providing the user with the visual indication that the disposable double point injection needle is in the safe position.

Claim 55. (Previously presented) The disposable double pointed injection needle according to claim 54, wherein said needle hub further comprises a lock for irreversibly locking the safety shield in the safe position, and the at least one indicating area is provided on said lock.

Claims 56.-57. (Canceled)